

## REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 22-36 remain in this application. Claims 5-21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-4 have been amended. Claims 22-36 have been added. The amended and added claims are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

### 35 U.S.C. §121 Election/Restrictions

The Patent Office has issued a restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-4, drawn to a lithographic method, classified in class 430, subclass 330;
- II. Claims 5-14 and 19-21, drawn to a lithographic system, classified in class 165, subclass 200;
- III. Claims 15-18, drawn to a photomask, classified in class 430, subclass 5.

In response to the restriction, the Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (i.e., claims 1-4, drawn to a lithographic method) in this application. Applicants make this election without prejudice to the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in another patent application.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance.

### **Request For Telephone Interview**

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

### **Request For An Extension Of Time**

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

### **Charge Our Deposit Account**

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: April, 9, 2004 Brent E. Vecchia  
Brent E. Vecchia  
Reg. No. 48,011

12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030  
(303) 740-1980